

MONARCHS
LOSE BIGTO THE COUGARS IN FIRST HOME GAME
VALLEY COLLEGE FOOTBALL ADDS TO
THEIR INJURED LIST IN FRIDAY'S
GAME LOSING 59-7

»16

lavalleystar.com

September 23, 2009

Volume 71, Issue 3

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

HEALTHCARE
IS SERIOUS
BUSINESSSARAH KNOWLES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Valley College student Lisa Martin knows all about the worries those with a lack of health insurance have to go through. After a serious car accident in 2000 that left her unable to work, Martin could no longer afford to pay for her insurance that she ultimately lost.

"I couldn't afford Cobra on my disability pay," said Martin, who is currently studying history and psychology. "I went without health insurance from 2003 until 2007 when I received my Social Security Disability and MediCare. But it took four years to get that approved, I had applied in 2003."

According to a report released last week by

the American Journal of Public Health, 45,000 Americans die every year because of a lack of insurance. The report states that the uninsured have a 40 percent higher risk of death than those with private health insurance because they are unable to gain required care.

Valley student Lupe Burgara feels fortunate that she has insurance; chiari 1 malformation is a rare condition that Lupe suffers from. The disorder can cause blindness and paralysis. Although she feels fortunate, Lupe also hopes for change so that those less fortunate will receive care.

"An MRI alone costs \$1,000 and I needed several before and after surgery," said Burgara regarding the disease. "If I didn't have health insurance I'm not sure what I would have done."

Martin said that when she did have insurance before her injury, she still avoided the doctor's office as much as possible.

"When I got sick I just sat it out at home with home remedies," she said. "I was afraid to go to

the doctors or the emergency room because of the doctor's bills."

Although fully recovered, Martin is still hampered with bills; she recently visited the Emergency Room because of heart problems, where the staff inquired as to what Martin's supplemental insurance was as well as Medicare: Martin has none.

"I'm on a fixed income and barely make it on my income, so extra bills make it that much harder," she said.

While the debate on reform blazes on, those who are currently without insurance still suffer. Martin hopes reform will happen sooner rather than later and hopes in the meantime she doesn't need to visit the doctor's office or emergency room any time again soon.

"Something needs to happen," she said. "For the homeless people who are thrown back onto the streets a day after care. We need this plan, for everyone."

LISA MARTIN, ONE OF MANY VALLEY STUDENTS WHO WORRY ABOUT HEALTHCARE

The deepening
healthcare
crisis in the
United States hits
home with Valley
College students.

VALLEY MUSIC
CONCERT

The school music department showcases talent during weekly event, from singing and musical instruments, to the latest voice recording technology.

ONLINE GALLERY

Festival from
another view

New slideshow from Hollywood's Sunset strip Festival.

These full stories and more can be read online @ www.lavalleystar.com

Flu Risk
vs. Vaccine
Risk

Valley Health Center begins to raise awareness on flu, as vaccine nears its arrival.

RAY BLUMHORST
STAFF WRITER

Flu season preparations continued to grow at Valley College last week as Valley Physician Assistant, Sonia Nadal hosted a health and flu information table at Valley's first club day of the semester.

"We're trying to get a medical doctor to come to an on campus event, where student's questions about seasonal flu and swine flu can be answered," said Nadal.

On average, 226,000 people are hospitalized every year because of influenza and 36,000 die, according to the Center for Disease Control. As of Sept. 11 the World Health Organization estimates 3,205 people have died of swine flu worldwide, but that number is expected to rise.

[See FLU, Page 2]

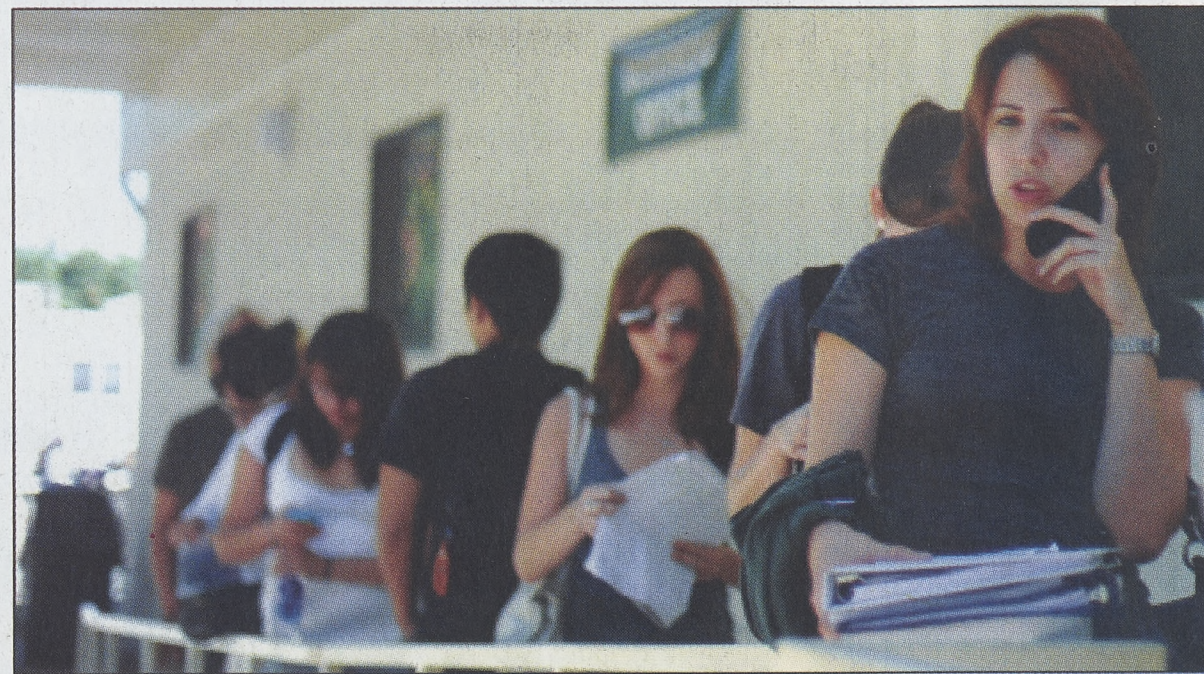
No Magic Money for
Valley College this YearJAMIE NORRIED
COPY EDITOR

For the past four years, Valley College has received alternate funding (referred to as "magic money," a phrase created by Vice President of Administrative

Services Tom Jacobsmeier) from the state and other sources, but administrators do not anticipate receiving any this year.

"(The funds) are not dependable, so when they show up it's magic," said Jacobsmeier, who is also the Co-chair of the Emergency Budget Task Force.

If Valley exceeds its Full Time Equivalent Student goal, the state provides "growth money," which is usually 2 to 4 percent. Last year, Valley received \$1.43 million in growth money, but because these funds are [See BUDGET, Page 2]



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

DOWN TIME - STUDENTS LINE UP TO PAY FEES AT THE BUSINESS OFFICE, WITH LITTLE OR NO HOPE OF RECEIVING ANY "MAGIC MONEY."

ASU to Make it
Harder to Hang on
to Your Money

The ASU wants to collect student fees automatically by Fall 2010 with "negative check off."

JONATHAN SEELEY
STAFF WRITER

The Associated Student Union (ASU) addressed several items at Tuesday's meeting, including the establishment of an exploratory committee for "negative check off."

The check off would affect every student registering at Valley College in the future by essentially assuming the student wants to pay \$10 in ASU fees, unless students "check off" a new box to opt them out of the fee.

"Lots of other colleges collect ASU fees this way, and Valley College is completely out-of-date with its current method," said ASU Vice President Ian Coyne.

Currently, when students fill out the form there is a box, that when checked, grants \$10 to the ASU. The ASU exploratory committee is looking to get the form changed so that a

student will have to opt out of paying, which is a reversal of the current way the optional fee is collected. If the box is left unchecked the ASU fee would automatically be applied to the total registration cost.

"I would like to see this in effect by Fall 2010; if not sooner. It's just a matter of changing the form," said Coyne.

Valley student Melissa Stowell stated that, "A lot of people are going to be fooled into paying it, but it's still optional."

Other items the council addressed were the cut of student workers from the budget. The ASU acknowledged that 25 percent of student services would have to be cut from the schools sagging budget, but the ASU would like a say as to where the cuts will be.

"I would rather see student tutoring programs saved, and student secretaries cut from the budget. Let the administrators answer their own phones," said Coyne.

'Flu'

continued from page 1

One Valley student who has weighed the vaccination risks against the consequences of contracting the flu is Jason Montelongo.

"Everything you take has risks," he said. "I don't have health insurance, but if flu shots are free I'm getting both the seasonal flu shot and the swine flu shot."

Questions about the swine flu vaccine's safety have been raised, because of the "fast track" the vaccine's development has been on, and because of some ingredients in the vaccine. A national, public health emergency was declared in April by the U.S. Departments of Health and Homeland Security after the swine flu outbreak. The health emergency declaration allows the Food and Drug Administration to authorize drug companies to expedite creation of experimental drugs and vaccines that don't have to be tested as thoroughly as vaccines that go through the FDA licensing process.

"We're expecting to be using vaccines that are produced exactly the same as the seasonal influenza vaccines are," said Dr. Anne Shuchat, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Disease, "and they don't have adjuvants here in the United States. The risks associated with this illness (swine flu) are much higher than the risks associated with the vaccine."

Some students remain wary but stress that, if available, they may not mind taking the vaccine.

"I don't like taking medicine," said Valley student Zuliy Ordaz. "But if the flu shots are free, I'll get them."

Disability Awareness on Campus

SUSAN MASHEVICH
STAFF WRITER

The Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) was formed in 1977, almost two decades before the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed. The program was meant to serve disabled students attending California Community Colleges. Today, the DSP&S works with the ADA to uphold the regulations and services required for disabled students by law, and progress towards providing higher quality and quantity of services to assist students overcoming disabilities.

Many students think of accommodations for disabled students only in terms of wheelchair ramps, automatic doors, or parking spots. DSP&S also provides specialized tutors, sign language interpreters, assistance with financial aid applications and test-taking facilities.

Valley student and DSP&S member, Brian

Morin, describes himself as a "high functioning" disabled person, even though he only uses a few of the DSP&S services. He is wheelchair bound and is directly affected by much of the ongoing construction on campus.

"Construction has impacted me," said Morin. "Yes, I can get around campus. It just takes longer with all the library construction. Construction frustrates them [DSP&S], they want better access for people with wheelchairs. Construction sites don't make their job easier."

Accessibility is always a large concern for the ADA and DSP&S. It is a factor that always must be updated and maintained, also making it a common expense when it comes to where they should put any money they receive.

Dave Green, Associate Dean for DSP&S, said they are in "budget crisis mode."

"From the \$37 million DSP&S was expecting, we didn't get anywhere near that," he said.

Despite the budget cuts, last winter session the DSP&S opened a new Adapted Physical

Education Facility for Students with Disabilities. The program tries to provide the best services possible for its students as part of Dave Green's motto of, "Doing more for less."

Like the ADA, the DSP&S runs on more of a concept rather than requirements, of being there for the students who need them. Gree, also shared an experience when the DSP&S at Valley College went an extra mile for a blind student who needed extra help with math tutoring, and they had a specialized tutor brought to work with the student, adding to what he calls their "tutoring component" of the program.

The upcoming Campus ADA Transition Plan will hold two public forums at Los Angeles Valley Campus on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and at 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room, Campus Center. Both individuals and disability groups are invited to come and talk about any improvements that can be made to the current disability programs, activities, or campus accessibility.

Valley In Photos



KIRA GARCIA | VALLEY STAR



ANA ROSA MURILLO | VALLEY STAR

'Budget'

continued from page 1

not available this year. Valley administration focuses on saving money and reducing spending, while health and safety remain a major concern.

Administration is now trying to pull funds from everywhere they can, including cutting the hours of part-time faculty. Class offerings have been reduced by about \$2.5 million this year, and there are 2,000 more students on campus this semester than last year, despite the fact that class offerings have dropped. Valley is not making more money, but increasing efficiency.

"When we increase our efficiency, the cost of the classes

goes down, so we can offer more classes for the same amount of money, or we could possibly even reduce the amount of money we spend because we have more students per class," said Jacobsmeier.

Some classes are already "overflowing," according to Professor Richard Torquato, Chair of the Budget Committee.

"My understanding is that I cannot take more than 45 students in the room I teach for legal liability reasons," said Torquato, explaining how Valley could be sued if a student became injured because of a fire code violation. With an average class size of 38 students, Valley is not at the violation point yet.

Currently, the Emergency

Budget Task Force is recommending that each department cut their budget 25 percent collectively in supplies, contracts and rentals, instructional materials, equipment purchases, building repairs, temporary workers, and instructional aids (tutors); though administrators are making every effort not to cut tutors.

Aside from the fire codes, restrooms need to be cleaned, the school needs maintenance people to keep the grounds safe, students and faculty need toilet paper, and while tutors are considered by many administrators to be an integral part of student success, according to Jacobsmeier, "The tutors are gonna go before toilet paper."

DANCE TIME - A STUDENT LEARNS DANCE STEPS AT A VALLEY COLLEGE DANCE CLASS

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EDUARDO HERRERA | VALLEY STAR

TEXTING IS HAZARDOUS

There are laws prohibiting text messaging and driving, but walking and texting is quite hazardous as well.

JAMIE NORRIED
COPY EDITOR

It is rather annoying to have someone walk right into you, only to realize they are texting at the same time. The act I've dubbed "walktng" is obnoxious and it's everywhere. Sometimes I let these (usually young) people bump into me to bring to their attention their lack of walktng skills.

We have new laws because of texting while driving incidents, but I wonder how often the average walktng has a collision with another person or object, and when new laws will be created to protect those who are affected by it.

Fifty-seven percent of U.S. teens credit their mobile device with improving their life, according to a national survey from CTIA and

Harris Interactive. According to the study, teens say texting has advantages over talking because it offers more options, with multitasking ranked number one.

The study also found that 42 percent of teens say they can text blindfolded, yet they can't walk straight while texting on a screen right in front of them.

"I don't see anything wrong with walking and texting, aren't we all multitaskers?" said Valley College student Star Farhad. "However, I do believe people need to be aware and acknowledge their surroundings while doing so."

Speaking of multitasking - in July 2009, a Staten Island teen suffered scrapes to her body after falling through an open manhole and into raw sewage while she was walktng, New York Daily News reported.

In March 2008, a survey by directory-services company 118 118 and Living Streets, a pedestrian-dedicated charity, found that out of 1,055 British texters, one in 10

had suffered injuries while texting and walking, as reported by British news site Metro.co.uk. The study also found that almost two-thirds of respondents lost peripheral vision while texting, and more than a quarter wanted lines painted on the pavement to create a Mobile Motorway for safe walktng.

Aside from the scrapes, broken noses and glasses, a bruised ego is probably the most common injury among walktngers.

"At the health center we have not had anyone report being injured secondary to using the cell phone...if injuries have happened, maybe they did not want to admit that it was due to the use of the cell phone," said Health Center Physician Assistant, Sonia Nodal. "I think it may be one of those things that people do not want to admit to."

Currently, no legislation bans walking while texting, but we are breeding a generation of face-down, trail-following walktngers with carpal tunnel-ridden thumbs.

SMOKING AT VALLEY STINKS UP THE CAMPUS

While students have the right to smoke cigarettes on campus, too many ignore the designated smoking areas.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

With all the renovations going on around Valley College, the last thing our campus needs is to look less presentable with scattered cigarette butts lying around. Many students pay no attention to the harm they are causing to their own campus.

Today it seems like Valley students have no empathy toward their fellow peers as they disregard the rules on campus and puff away anywhere they can.

The students who choose to ignore the signs around campus or the designated smoking areas need to consider why smoking on campus is restricted. Smokers endanger students who deal with the second-hand smoke roaming throughout the campus, which is one more reason why this

situation should be taken seriously. It's no surprise why some students are outraged with how smoking is handled on campus with no rightful punishment.

"The smell [of cigarettes] bothers me, so having to deal with it on campus is wrong and I'm sure I'm not the only one who thinks so," said Valley student Corie Blais.

Regulation B-6 of the smoking policy states "smoking is prohibited on all property and in all indoor and outdoor spaces owned, controlled, or administered by Los Angeles Valley College, except in designated areas," according to Los Angeles Community College District.

It's contradictory that campus security seems to look

past the people who smoke on campus, but only occasionally give out warnings or tickets. In order for Valley to gain control of their smoking policy, the school's administration has to become stricter with how they handle students who carelessly smoke their hours away on campus.

Although some of the designated areas may not be suitable for most students because of the small spaces they have to smoke in, it's no surprise they choose

to ignore it and smoke wherever they please with little or no hesitation.

With as easy as it is to hide cigarettes while security passes by, it seems like you could get away with a lot more than just smoking at Valley.

"The smell [of cigarettes] bothers me, so having to deal with it on campus is wrong and I'm sure I'm not the only one who thinks so."

-Corie Blais
Valley Student

VALLEY VIEW | WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT SMOKING ON CAMPUS?



I know people are going to do it regardless, but at least respect others.

-STEPHANIE WILLIAMSON
PSYCHOLOGY



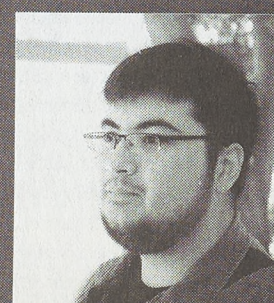
I don't smoke but I like that they have areas where people can smoke.

-YESEN DEMEKE
NUTRITION



If someone from the staff tells me to move I will. But not if it's a student.

-ZORAB TSINTSABADZE
MEDIA ARTS



Maybe they should put in more smoking areas, but away from doors.

-JESSE VINDIOLA
ANTHROPOLOGY

SAMUEL OKSNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

Students are Asleep in Their Chairs

Too many students come to Valley College to socialize and cause distractions in class - to others' detriment.

LUCAS THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Recollecting my semesters here at Valley College, I have seen a trend in the unprepared students which I often come across, the class sizes that drop significantly, and a student body more interested in their Blackberries, and iPhones rather than their reading assignments, exam reviews, and term papers. This leads me to one conclusion about

the average community college student: lazy. When asked if she thought the average Valley student was lazier in comparison to a university student, Valley student Patricia Lopez said, "I believe that's true because the students take it as it's easier to be here...at a university it's in the title; it's going to be hard work."

Of course I have not taken every class, met every student, and seen every grade book. But I feel safe in my conclusion knowing that Valley contains a non-majority of hardworking, back busting, show-up-on-time students.

In a 2007 survey taken of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), students were asked what was the highest degree they planned to obtain as a community college student; 18 percent of Valley students answered that their highest goal was to earn a high school diploma or GED. This was consistent throughout the district, which suggests many students have no plans to further their educational status, but will most likely be willing to complain about book prices and tuition fees.

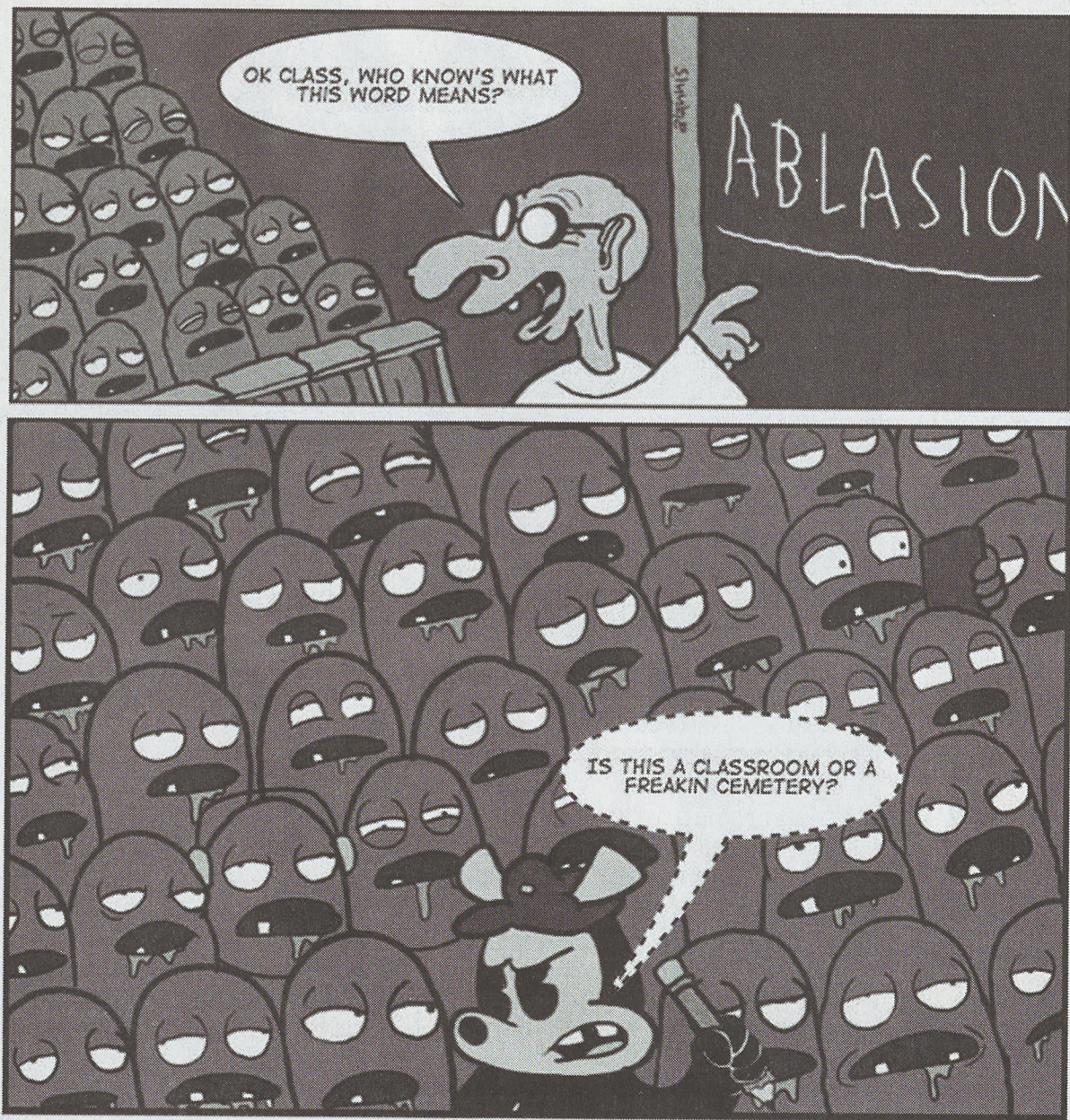
Of the 18,436 students which attended Valley in the 2007-08 semesters, only 802 went on to transfer to a UC or CSU, and only 1,317 were awarded a degree and/or certificate.

This proves a complete lack of motivation in many "college students" floating around campus.

"I don't think our students are lazier," Michelle Fowles of the Valley College research center said. "I feel our students have numerous obligations and pressures that may interfere with their educational goals...Our students are more likely to be part time, when comparing our students to the UC you really are comparing different populations."

It goes without saying that Valley students may have added pressures, responsibilities, and jobs. But these students do not only exist at the community college level. In fact, many students at our level have aspirations of transferring to a university, graduating and many times going on to earn their bachelor's or master's degrees.

I applaud those who are stepping up to the plate each semester; there are many of you out there. Those with an excuse... welcome to college.



LEONARDO ALANNIS | VALLEY STAR

Think For Yourself, Question Authority

Not all criticism of President Barack Obama's policies and actions comes courtesy of bigotry and hatred.

SARAH KNOWLES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Discrimination exists across the country. From laughing at an overweight person, to suggesting construction work is only good for a man, we are a nation of bullies whether we like it or not. However, suggesting that each person who disagrees with President Obama's policies is racist is just another notch on our ever-growing pole of ignorance.

Racism still exists. It is estimated that the deaths of 62 million people can be attributed to racism, according to Soundvision.com. A 2006 CNN poll stated that the majority of black and white citizens believe that racism is still a "very serious" or "somewhat serious" problem. Half of the African Americans polled said they had been a victim of discrimination themselves.

Although the problem remains a thorn in the side of the nation, people did put aside the color of Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential election. Nine states changed allegiance from the 2004 presidential race. Obama took previously republican areas, including Indiana; the state had not been carried by a democrat since 1964, according to the Indiana Secretary of State Web site.

Opinion polls are showing these impressive results may not be as

reflective today as they were then. With drastic plans such as health care reform and bailout cash, it is only natural that some will be ready to question his reasoning or worry about the plans enough to speak out.

Of course, bad-mannered republicans like Joe Wilson do not help the plight for equality beyond color when acting in the despicable way we are all now familiar with. Believing that Obama "lies" is fine, but interrupting the president only shows absolute disrespect for the man in office. This has done nothing but propagate the "Republican-racist" stereotype which is a complete fabrication.

It is easy to blame racism, but there is a deeper issue: people are worried that Obama may be in beyond a comfortable depth. As a nation built upon free speech and democracy, it is wrong to push those who wish to speak their mind down by crying "racism" at any moment. Obviously it exists, but the 2008 election made this country proud. We must continue to push for change, and this includes not agreeing with everything the president [black or white] says.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Send letters to the editor to lavalley-star@yahoo.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and can be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letter to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue

Leno Offers New Reruns on a Daily Basis

JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

One week into "The Jay Leno Show" and it looks as if the titular host looks as if he never left television. This is a half truth considering once you take away the new car themed set, earlier time slot and slightly modified line-up of gags, you're left with a less funny, watered down version of "The Tonight Show."

Leno opens the show with his usual stabs at the day's headlines followed by a guest or two guest set depending who the star du jour is. When you feel that you've seen this episode before with 15 minutes to spare, Jay breaks into his schtick of "headlines" and "jaywalking," stalwarts from his days on "The Tonight Show."

While the guest level is top notch with Jerry Seinfeld, Robin Williams, and Mel Gibson all making appearances, the show fails dramatically as serving as a lead-in for "The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien" which is even losing ratings to reruns of David Letterman. "The Tonight Show" is trying to recoup the 18-30 male demographic that O'Brien fought for years to attain and Michael Moore, Bruce Hornsby and Tom Papa are hardly that.

The fact that "The Jay Leno Show" is close to the host's previous gig in format and time slot, it makes the lack of originality even more glaring. The comedian/host does an effective job with what he's but the show as a whole seems dated out of the gate.

None of this seems to matter to President of NBC/Universal Jeff Zucker, who made this show specifically to eliminate 10 p.m. dramas from the network. NBC is projected to save about \$13 million per week as result of the cost cutting move. In the interim, this seems like a good idea for the last place network but hindsight will reveal that pushing out an inferior product will cost them more. Think of all the Thursday night movie advertising going to prime time dramas striving for first in ratings, not hoping to compete with reruns. "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit" with Law and Order: Meter Maid Division may seem repetitive but bad comedy is unbearable.

"The Jay Leno Show" has a four year contract with a company clause to opt out after two years. Lets hope its the latter and not the former for a television icon who deserves far better than this.

Conan's New Show Needs to Break the Mold

JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

Thinking about Conan O'Brien's brief stint as host of the "Tonight Show," everything seems to be in order/ Beautiful new set: check. "A" list guest stars: check. Max Weinberg: check. If there was one criticism to made in assessing the show so far it'd be "where's the funny?"

This isn't to say that O'Brien isn't funny, but the late night host certainly hasn't hit his stride. The debut show fell flat at 7.7 ratings share. 1.1 lower than the last episode of its predecessor "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and has consistently lost the late night battle to Davis Letterman. O' Brien has yet to regain his much sought after 18-30 male demographic that has since moved in droves to "The Colbert Report" on Comedy Central.

The biggest mistake O'Brien has made is the overt reverence to the rich lineage of hosts preceding him. Not only in stance and delivery of the punchlines in his opening monologue but even having Andy Richter return to the fold to play Ed McMahon to his Johnny Carson. The problem is that O'Brien is no Carson. That's no slight against Conan considering there are things that Carson would've never been able to pull off that the current host already has done in his career, i.e the masturbating bear gag.

The main ingredient missing, the funny lacking is the giddily subversive brand of humor O'Brien honed for 16 years on "Late Night." Conan has carved out an image of being innovative and spontaneous. From the string dance to crashing the boom mic to making the running joke go one step beyond, limit is a word that hasn't been in the late night hosts lexicon before and it shouldn't now.



STEP RIGHT UP!- A Valley College student signs up for the Puente La Raza Student Association on Club Day, held on the second Wednesday of every month.

KIRA GARCIA | VALLEY STAR

Valley Clubs Make Fall Premiere

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

When Valley College had its first club day of the Fall 2009 semester last Wednesday clubs enthusiastically engaged in their outreach efforts as students wandered between tables.

The lively sounds of music from Valley College's KVMC radio station permeated Monarch Square with the help of the Broadcasting Club. The club helps those interested in television and radio broadcasting related careers. In addition to recruiting new talent, the club used this opportunity to advertise its new high definition television studio and radio station.

"If you have any experience or are interested in broadcasting, you're more than welcome to join us on Thursdays at 3pm when we meet in Humanities 112, we would

love to have you," said Nathan Martin, club president. Interested parties can also get information by email at lavcbrclub@gmail.com.

The Student Health Center table focused on the flu and swine flu in particular. The Health department on campus helps with many things: blood drives, student general health issues, referral services and preventative screenings.

"The swine flu is real and can affect anyone. It's important to wash your hands and cover when you cough, stop all the kissing and handshaking," counseled Sonia Nodal, physician's assistant for the Health Center. She explained the process of flu prevention to a group of students, while she handed out pamphlets and prevention flyers.

The Student Health Center is in the North Gym. Students need a valid fee receipt for the current semester to obtain services. The Hours of Services are Mon, Tues, and Thurs:

8:30am - 4:30pm; Wed: 8:30am - 7pm; Fri: 9am-1pm. The center closes on weekends, college holidays, and during term breaks.

Tau Alpha Epsilon, Valley College's Honor Society and oldest club, was a few tables down. This year TAE celebrates 60 years of service to the campus and the community.

Lori Munoz, club historian explained the benefits of being a TAE member: "We're the only club on campus that offers a transcript notation. We also award scholarships to our members based on service points earned," Munoz said. "The club also puts on the Apple Awards so students can recognize outstanding instructors and we're affiliated with Phi Theta Kappa, the national community college honor society," Munoz continued.

Tau Alpha Epsilon meets Tues. 1-2pm & Thurs. 5-6pm in CC 208. Interested students can e-mail the club at tae_lavc@gmail.com.

gmail.com.

Students looked into and signed up for several clubs on Wednesday. Other campus clubs and community organizations represented included EOPS, Financial Aid, Hillel, the Child Development Club and The Help Group (a non-profit agency dedicated to helping families and children with autism).

The next Club Day will happen September 30 and then every other Wednesday from 9am to 2pm.

Students can obtain additional information about these clubs by contacting the Associated Student Union (ASU) office at (818) 778-5516 or by visiting the ASU offices located in Campus Center Room 102. Hours are Monday-Thurs. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A. Ramachandran contributed to this article.

MP3 Playlist- Tracking Pearl Jam's Evolution

JOSH SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

It's ironic that Kurt Cobain characterized Pearl Jam as a "corporate cash-cow" when the grunge movement began. Still the standard-bearer, the band spent most of their career deconstructing their image. With the recent release of the band's ninth album, "Backspacer," newcomers or casual fans can review their 20-year evolution and why they remain relevant and influential to this day.

Pearl Jam's roots are at the grunge epicenter. Guitarist Stone Gossard and bassist Jeff Ament disbanded the seminal grunge band, Green River, in 1987 due to stylistic differences with Mark Arm and Steve Turner (who'd later form Mudhoney) with the intent to create MotherLoveBone, a grunge band that was infinitely more dynamic than Green River. Their debut album, "Apple" was met with excellent reviews before vocalist Andrew Wood died of a heroin overdose in March of 1990. The Temple of the Dog collaboration between the remaining band members, Chris Cornell and Matt Cameron (of Soundgarden) along with the Eddie Vedder duet on "Hunger Strike" was the earnest genesis of Pearl Jam.

Early works like "State of Love and Trust," "Jeremy" and "Even Flow" deal with relationships, suicide, and homelessness and are told through the perspective of an angry young man with a social perspective and storytelling dynamic that Nirvana never had.

Later works such as "Not for You," "Do the Evolution," "World Wide Suicide" and "Life Wasted" reveal passion similar to the band's earlier efforts and combine a

sharpened focus that punctuate the band's discontent with society's status quo.

Pearl Jam's greatest strength is artistic storytelling through music. The band's earliest demos form a "mini-opera" called "Mamasan." It's the semi-autobiographical tale of a young man who learns that who he thought was his father was in reality his stepfather with his biological father dying long ago (Something Vedder experienced firsthand).

The mother sees a physical resemblance between the young man and his father. She begins a sexual embrace of her son ("Alive") and the young man loses control and resulting in a crime spree ("Once") that eventually results in his execution ("Footsteps"). While The Doors and The Who covered similar ground, Vedder's introspection isn't an arty concept as much as it is catharsis.

This is a type of storytelling, layering, and concept rarely seen in rock since the Who's "Quadrophonia." The band also borrowed from Bruce Springsteen with beautiful single song stories like "Daughter," "Betterman" and "Corduroy" that have equal balance of an aesthetically pleasing sound quality with heavier subject matter.

Vedder's recent work on the "Into the Wild" soundtrack and the election of President Obama has added a new creativity and optimism to "Backspacer." Musically it blends elements of punk, folk, and new wave into Pearl Jam's signature sound. After 19 years, it's great to see a band that still makes excellent, relevant records and incorporates new sounds without compromising their image or voice.



Essential Listening:

1. Hard Sun from the "Into the Wild" Soundtrack
2. The Fixer from "Backspacer"
3. State of Love and Trust from the "Singles" soundtrack
4. Worldwide Suicide from "Pearl Jam"
5. Go from "Vs."
6. Even Flow from "Ten"
7. Hunger Strike from "Temple of the Dog"
8. Life Wasted from "Pearl Jam"
9. Corduroy from "Vitalogy."
10. Betterman from "Vs."
11. Daughter from "Vs."
12. Rearviewmirror from "Vs"
13. Do The Evolution from "Yield"
14. Not For you from "Vitalogy"
15. Yellow Ledbetter from "Lost Dogs"
16. Jeremy from "Ten"
17. Alive from "Ten"
18. Once from "Ten"
19. Footsteps from "Lost Dogs"
20. Love Reign O'er Me from the "Reign Over Me" Soundtrack

Movie Review: "Jennifer's Body" has Image Issues

DIABLO CODY'S TAKE ON HIGH SCHOOL HELL DESCENDS TO DIZZIFYING NEW LOWS

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

As gorgeous as Megan Fox's body may be, the film "Jennifer's Body" lacks the true spirit of horror films. The only horror you'll see out of this film is the bad acting. The lack of the surprise, suspense and entertainment value that people ordinarily look for when they watch these films is also missing. Instead, the bored audience just wonders if the film is anything more than just another hour and a half of Megan Fox eye-candy.

Jennifer Check (Megan Fox) is the queen of her high school. Her best friend is Needy Lesnicky (Amanda Seyfried), a geek. They share a special connection after Jennifer turns into a creature

of the night (succubus) that feeds on human flesh. Teenage boys become her prey and Needy tries to stop the rampage.

The film mixes humor with teen misadventure and horror. Sex and alcohol also figure into the tale. Teens fall subject peer pressure faster than they can consume alcohol.

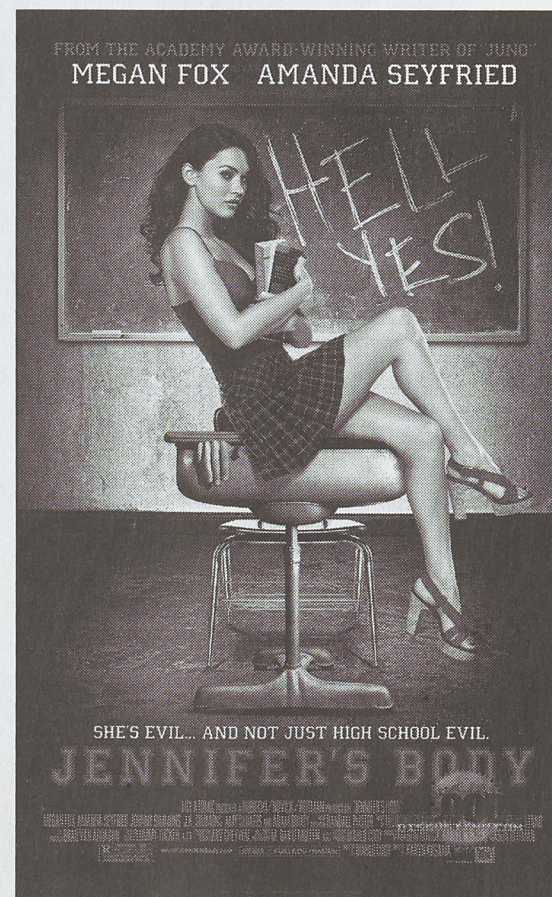
Needy provides a first-person narration as Jennifer hunts down and feeds on boys. The narration gives the viewer background about Megan Fox on the prowl. It comments upon the creepy coping mechanisms teens use to deal with tragedy.

Writer Diablo Cody, who also wrote "Juno," created this film with Director Karyn Kusama. The pair took additional effort and spiced up the film with an edgy feel that gives the characters more audience beyond the usual horror genre imagery. They also insert a different vibe by adding comedy in awkward situations especially when someone is about

to die. The problem is that the attempts to be funny confuses the viewer and takes the main focus off the story. Audiences don't know if they are watching a horror film or a horror spoof.

"Jennifer's Body" falls short of its expectations as a horror film. It seems more like a slapstick comedy with a horror twist and an inconsistent story than a horror film. Only the visual effects move the story forward and keep the viewers interested in the film. The film would have done better if to emphasize the story instead of adding random scenarios for shock value.

Ultimately, "Jennifer's Body" leaves the viewer slack-jawed wondering whether the term should be "succubus."



Pearl Jam's "Backspacer" Doesn't Backpedal

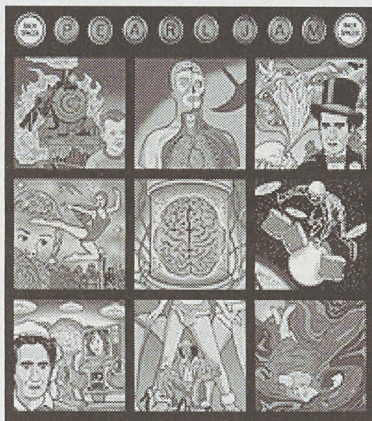
JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

Pearl Jam's ninth album, "Backspacer," signals a new chapter for the band as it fully evolves from angry young men into elder statesmen of rock, proving that getting older doesn't necessarily mean playing slower.

Sonically, the band continues to reference its earlier works. This trend started with 2006's "Pearl Jam" which takes its cue from the band's debut "Ten." "Backspacer" channels lighter moments from "Vs." and "Vitalogy." The material fresh because the band diverges from 19 years of precedent. Pearl Jam's combination of a pop aesthetic and trademark intensity makes their band more accessible to a new generation of top 40 radio listeners who think that knock-off's like Nickelback and Daughtry pass for grunge rock.

The move pays huge dividends. "Johnny Guitar" and "Amongst the Waves" show skillful songwriting. "The Fixer" is an instant classic while "Just Breathe" is a tender and unabashed love song. Fans will notice the considerable growth despite Eddie Vedder's one-time "embarrassment" with the song "Betterman" for its pop sensibility.

"Gonna See My Friend" and



"Got Some" are vintage rockers that contrast the aforementioned "lighter" songs. "Friend" kicks off the album as an intense, rollicking jam detailing the throes of addiction. "Got Some" sounds like a lost gem off "No Code" or "Riot Act."

"Backspacer" is Pearl Jam's most commercial-sounding album. Although the album sounds similar to "Vitalogy," that album was made in response to the group's previous albums, "Ten" and "Vs."

"Backspacer" is a great collection of songs reflection where the band is now, not where were. It's a fantastic introduction for the uninitiated and an essential for long-time fans. The album is easily one of the best rock records of 2009.

INCITING INSIGHT FROM MUSE

"THE RESISTANCE" JOURNEYS THROUGH THE 21ST CENTURY LIFE USING MANY 20TH CENTURY INFLUENCES.

ROBERT KING
OPINION EDITOR

Too many musicians today either can't or don't put much thought into the pacing and progression of their albums as a whole.

British rock group Muse's fourth studio album, "The Resistance" shows why they are an exception to that rule. The band intertwines modern and classical influences into a rock album that stays relevant to today's world.

"The Resistance" lives up to its title beginning with the opening track and first radio single, "Uprising." The pulsing bass line paired with infectious guitar and synthesizer riffs create the base for lead singer Matthew Bellamy's inciting warnings that our world is eerily similar to an Orwellian novel.

The album journeys through the band's myriad Brit rock influences, including David Bowie in "Resistance" and Depeche Mode in the track "Undisclosed

Desires."

The album's fourth track, "The United States of Eurasia (+Collateral Damage)," brings the band's musical prowess to the forefront.

As Bellamy sings, "Our ancient heroes/ they are turning to dust/ And these wars; they can't be won/ does anyone know or care

ing the serene.

Two songs later, the band mixes styles again for "Unnatural Selection," which starts out with an organ playing and Bellamy crooning. The song then dives into the drive of early English punk mixed with a Bach-reminiscent chorus bridged by a thoughtful waltz progression.

Another musical high point comes later in the song "I Belong to You," an upbeat ode to early 20th century European love songs. The song's triumph comes in the bridge where the band works in an excerpt of "Mon Cœur S'ouvre à Ta Voix" from the opera "Samson and Delilah" by Camille Saint-Saëns.

At its conclusion, the band takes listeners through a three-track "symphony" called "Exogenesis." The symphony is a nice summary and finale to the album's storyline.

Overall, the album appeals to listeners to question the status quo and learn the true meanings of the world around us. It is all summed up in "Exogenesis: Symphony Part 2" as Bellamy sings, "Rise above the crowds, and wade through toxic clouds, breach the outer sphere, the edge of all our fears."



Tau Alpha Epsilon Honor Society Does Club Day with Flare

TAU ALPHA EPSILON (TAE) HONORS SOCIETY USES POSTERBOARD AND PUBLIC ADDRESS TO BOOST MEMBERSHIP

RAY BLUMHORST
STAFF WRITER

Enthusiastic smiles and stylishly gilded signs greeted passing students as Tau Alpha Epsilon (TAE) members promoted their club at Valley College's first club day of the Fall 2009 semester.

"We are the oldest club on campus," said Jose Estrada, club president. "We began one month after the school was built in 1949 and we plan to continue TAE's long tradition of service to students, LAVC, and the community."

According to Professor Alfred Zucker, the club will celebrate its 60th anniversary this year. Zucker has served as TAE sponsor since 1992. He also served as its president from 1959 - 60, when he was a student at Valley. "The club is near and dear to my heart," said Zucker. "It's something I've given my life to."

Estrada further pointed out that TAE is the only club to

offer its members an official annotation on their transcripts. "Those annotations are worthwhile to students, whether they are applying for scholarships, transferring to other colleges, or applying for jobs."

TAE offers its members a wide range of activities in which to participate. TAE hosts the Dean's Reception to honor students who earn a 3.5 (or higher) GPA.

The club recently lent a major hand to the Environmental Club and ASU for "Clean-Up Day." The event helps beautify and uphold TAE's commitment to campus service.

TAE members also help other students attain academic achievement by working as tutors in different programs on campus such as at EOPS and the Writing Center.

Every year, TAE also stages the Apple Awards to honor Valley's top teachers. Last year TAE received over 100 teacher nominations from students. The three teachers with the most votes received a Crystal Apple trophy and the club presented certificates to the rest of the nominees.

Valley student and recently elected club historian, Lori

Munoz, joined TAE in the Spring 2009 semester. "I've had a great time since joining," said Munoz. "TAE members are caring, down-to-earth people. You don't see enough of that in this world."

Interested students must meet TAE's membership requirements before submitting their \$10 membership fee. This includes a 3.3 GPA, or higher and 12 completed UC or CSU transferable units.

Once a student becomes a member, they earn the transcript notation for every semester of active membership by participating in club activities. One hour of on-campus service earns the club member one point. Ten points earns the transcript notation for the semester. TAE also awards scholarships to their members who earn the most points each semester.

Tau Alpha Epsilon holds two meetings per week. The club meets Tues. 1-2 p.m. & Thurs. 5-6 p.m. in CC 208. This provides members the opportunity to attend meetings depending on their class schedule. Interested students can also contact the club by e-mail at tae_lavc@gmail.com.

LAVC Events

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

DEADLINE TO DROP FALL SEMESTER 2009 CLASSES WITHOUT RECEIVING A "W" (IN-PERSON, BY TELEPHONE AND INTERNET)

DEADLINE TO PETITION FOR CREDIT & NO-CREDIT FALL SEMESTER 2009 CLASSES

LAVC JOB CLUB @ 9- 12 NOON (FACULTY LOUNGE); RSVP - CONTACT: JOB TRAINING (818) 778-5832 WWW.LAVC.EDU/JOBTRAINING/JOBCLUB.HTM

INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCE FAIR HOSTED BY THE INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA @ 10 AM-3 PM (MONARCH HALL); FREE - CONTACT: NIYANTA DAVE (818) 908-1199 NDAVE@ILCSC.ORG VIEW FLYER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

DEADLINE TO DROP FALL SEMESTER 2009 CLASSES WITHOUT RECEIVING A "W" (BY TELEPHONE AND INTERNET)

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES AT CSUN HILLEL "YOM KIPPUR SERVICE CANDLELIGHTING AND KOL NIDRE" @ 6 PM (CSUN HILLEL, 17729 PLUMMER ST., NORTHridge, CA 91325); COST: \$125 FOR COMMUNITY (FOR ALL SERVICES), STUDENTS/18 & UNDER FREE - CONTACT: (818) 887-5901

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES AT CSUN HILLEL "MORNING YOM KIPPUR SERVICE" @ 10:30 AM (CSUN HILLEL, 17729 PLUMMER ST., NORTHridge, CA 91325); COST: \$125 FOR COMMUNITY (FOR ALL SERVICES), STUDENTS/18 & UNDER FREE - CONTACT: (818) 887-5901

Upcoming Releases

FILM



SURROGATES

BRUCE WILLIS

ALSO PLAYING:

FAME
COCO BEFORE CHANEL
I HOPE THEY SERVE BEER IN HELL
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY

MUSIC



BASEMENT JAXX

SCARS

ALSO PLAYING:

DAVID GRAY; DRAW THE LINE

MONSTERS OF FOLK; MONSTERS OF FOLK

DVD



OBSERVE AND REPORT

SETH ROGEN

ANNA FARIS

ALSO PLAYING:

THE BATTLE FOR TERRA

GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST



GAINING YARDS - Valley College receiver Travis Odom tackled by a College of the Canyons defensive back on one of his many completions of the night from quarterback Bret Visciglia.

COUGAR SPEED TOO MUCH FOR VALLEY PRIDE

Saturday night's game resulted in another Valley defeat – scoring only one touchdown in their 59-7 loss.

LUCAS THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

In their first home game of the season last Saturday, the injured Valley team looked to reconcile their first two frustrations of the season by beating College of the Canyons. Unfortunately for the Monarchs, the Cougars looked their usual self with a 59-7 victory in the third week of the season.

"The focus was on our will being greater than theirs," Canyons Head Coach Garret Tujague said

after the game. "We run, we lift, and we do both of those very well...our goal was to use both of these to our advantage."

After both teams settled down in the opening minutes of the first half, the Cougars struck first on an 11-yard carry by running back Nick Hale, making it 7-0 with 7:50 in the first quarter.

On the Monarchs next series, the team put together a successful drive highlighted by a 38-yard completion to receiver Kevin Kreppel, ending in a Monarch touchdown by receiver Travion Odom, tying the game at 7.

This was the closest the Monarchs would get as tailback B.J. Iverson ran in for another touchdown with 2:33 left in the first quarter. In the next Valley

offensive series a promising drive turned for the worst when Cougar linebacker Gary Johnson tipped a Bret Visciglia pass – which resulted in an offensive touchdown carry by Nick Hale, making it 21-7.

"It's disappointing, because I thought we were a better team than what we showed tonight," Valley Head Coach Jim Fenwick said. "We don't have the luxury of dropping a pass and recovering."

Things only worsened in the remainder of the half as the Cougars option plays and quarter back keeps stumped the Monarch defense with a halftime score of 31-7.

Though there were many moments of success in the passing game Valley posed on Saturday; dropped balls, interceptions, a blocked punt, and mental errors once again kept the team out of the Cougar end zone as the third quarter ended with a score of 45-7.

With plenty of points to spread around, the Cougars entered the Valley end zone two more times with a touchdown by running back Ryan Zirbel and wide receiver Justin Monson.

"I think Coach Fenwick is an extremely good coach," said Coach Tujague. "Just need to give him time."

As the injury-prone Monarch team continues to struggle, the team can only move forward and prepare for their upcoming home game against Santa Monica College – a match-up which resulted in a 38-24 loss last season.



COMING UP SHORT - Valley player stopped quick on a Monarch Kick Return.

OPINION

Drew Brees: The Number One Quarterback in NFL

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees is the #1 quarterback in the NFL today.

ROBERT R. KING
OPINION EDITOR

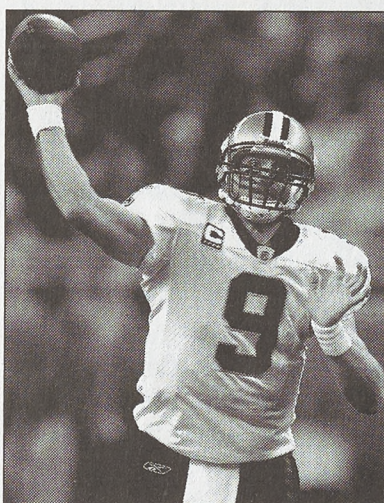
Two weeks into the 2009 NFL season a few things are evident. Tom Brady still needs to shake off a little rust after being injured last year. Peyton Manning is still Peyton Manning, just nearing the end of his career. Tony Romo still can't win the big game, and Ben Roethlisberger can pump-fake while taking a hit.

But, none of them are Drew Brees.

Since the season's opening drive, Brees and the New Orleans Saints offense have shown that they should be the most feared unit in the NFL. Brees threw for 358 yards and six touchdowns against the Detroit Lions, tying the NFL record for touchdown passes in a game. It was the most touchdowns thrown in a season opening game since at least 1950, according to the Associated Press.

In week two against a much stronger Philadelphia Eagles defense, Brees threw for 311 yards and three touchdowns. The Saints quarterback has thrown for a combined nine touchdowns in the first two weeks of the season, enough to tie the record for most touchdown passes in the first two weeks set by Charley Johnson of the St. Louis Cardinals in 1965.

Ask any Saints fan and they'll



tell you that they've seen this coming since 2006, when the Saints signed Brees as a free agent from San Diego after the Chargers deemed him expendable after tearing his labrum in the final regular season game of 2005.

Since 2006, Brees has completed more passes, thrown for more yards, touchdowns, 25+ yard completions and 300 yard games on top of completing more passes for first downs than anyone else in the league. He also came within one completion last year of setting the single season record for passing yards, and for his efforts, became only the second quarterback in NFL history next to Dan Marino to throw for over 5,000 yards. He is the lifeblood of the Saints offense, according to Head Coach Sean Payton, and his savvy play makes everyone on the field around him better.

Not too shabby for a guy whom many "experts" hadn't even ranked in their top five quarterbacks, until now.

MONARCHS SCORELESS AGAINST ROADRUNNERS LAST FRIDAY IN A 3-0 DEFEAT

Valley Soccer falls once again in their Friday match-up against the Rio Hondo Roadrunners losing 3-0

RUBI MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Roadrunners were too fast for the Monarchs last Friday, during the women's soccer game at Rio Hondo College. On a warm and sunny day, with perfect conditions, not even the weather was enough to motivate Valley to beat Rio Hondo – losing in a shut-out, 3-0.

"We dug ourselves in a hole and never got out," Valley Head Coach Shane Watkins said.

The Monarchs got off to a rough start as the Roadrunners took advantage, scoring in the first 10 minutes of the game. The Roadrunners would not stop there – scoring their second and third goals 10 minutes before the end of the first half.

"Lack of confidence and mental preparation played a key role on this game," Watkins said. "I feel we didn't have 11 players on the field that were ready to play, we came out flat and they punished us right away."

After enduring a tough first half the Monarchs picked up the pace penetrating the defense more successfully and keeping up with the speedy Roadrunners.

"We did start out flat during the first half and we just didn't know where we were at, and we weren't communicating...but we made a big difference in the second half," Valley player Stephanie Ortega said.



PREPARING FOR THE GAME - Valley soccer Head Coach Shane Watkins in preparation prior to the game.

Rio Hondo, whose record is now 2-5-1 was modest about their victory, complementing Valley for stepping up their game during the second half and not giving up despite the outcome of the first half.

"It's my first time playing

Valley, they're a good team. They played well but it seems they weren't too confident out in the field," Rio Hondo forward defender Tasha Campbell said after the game.

The Monarchs square off against Cal Lutheran this coming Friday with a record of 1-4-1 look-

ing for their second win of the season in Thousand Oaks.

Despite the early failures of the Monarch soccer team, Coach Shane Watkins has plenty of time for improvement with 15 out of 18 players on the roster being freshmen.

Working Towards His Goals-Leading by His Actions

Sophomore starting football center Erik Jusko shows his passion for football and overall love for people.

LUCAS THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

At age 19, Erik Jusko has figured out more about life and the plans that lay in store for him than most people will ever know or care to find out. As Valley football's starting center and long snapper, it is apparent Jusko has a deep passion for the game, his education, and most importantly, for people.

Growing up in Winnetka, Calif., Erik learned early what he wanted to do. "When I was younger I got injured a lot...knowing how I felt, I wanted to help people," Erik said. The desire to help people is inherent in the undersized 240-pound

lineman from Notre Dame high school.

As he continues his education, Jusko will add on to the five mission trips he has now completed with Lifehouse Church in Northridge. His involvement with his church has not only inspired him to become an orthopedic surgeon, but also seek to begin a non-profit organization focused on performing voluntary reconstructive surgery's, like cleft lip, around the world.

As a sophomore on the Valley squad, Jusko is undoubtedly looking for an opportunity to transfer — after a broken thumb in high school cut off all connection with

recruiters like Duke, Boise State, and University of Las Vegas.

"When we get 80 of those guys, we'll be a very good team," Head Coach Jim Fenwick said of Jusko. "He's a guy that a coach can count on through thick and thin...someone's going to get a really good player."

With plans of obtaining his associate degree, and transferring to earn his master's degree, Jusko knows what he wants but not where he's going to get it. Regardless of where he ends up, his focus now is on Valley football and the potential he sees in the program.

"I wanna see the team grow together and reestablish the Valley pride Coach Fenwick had back in the '90s."

That pride shows through in every action, down, and moment of Erik Jusko's life as he continues to lead by action and inspire those around him.

"He's the type of guy you want to play with... Not only a good football player (but

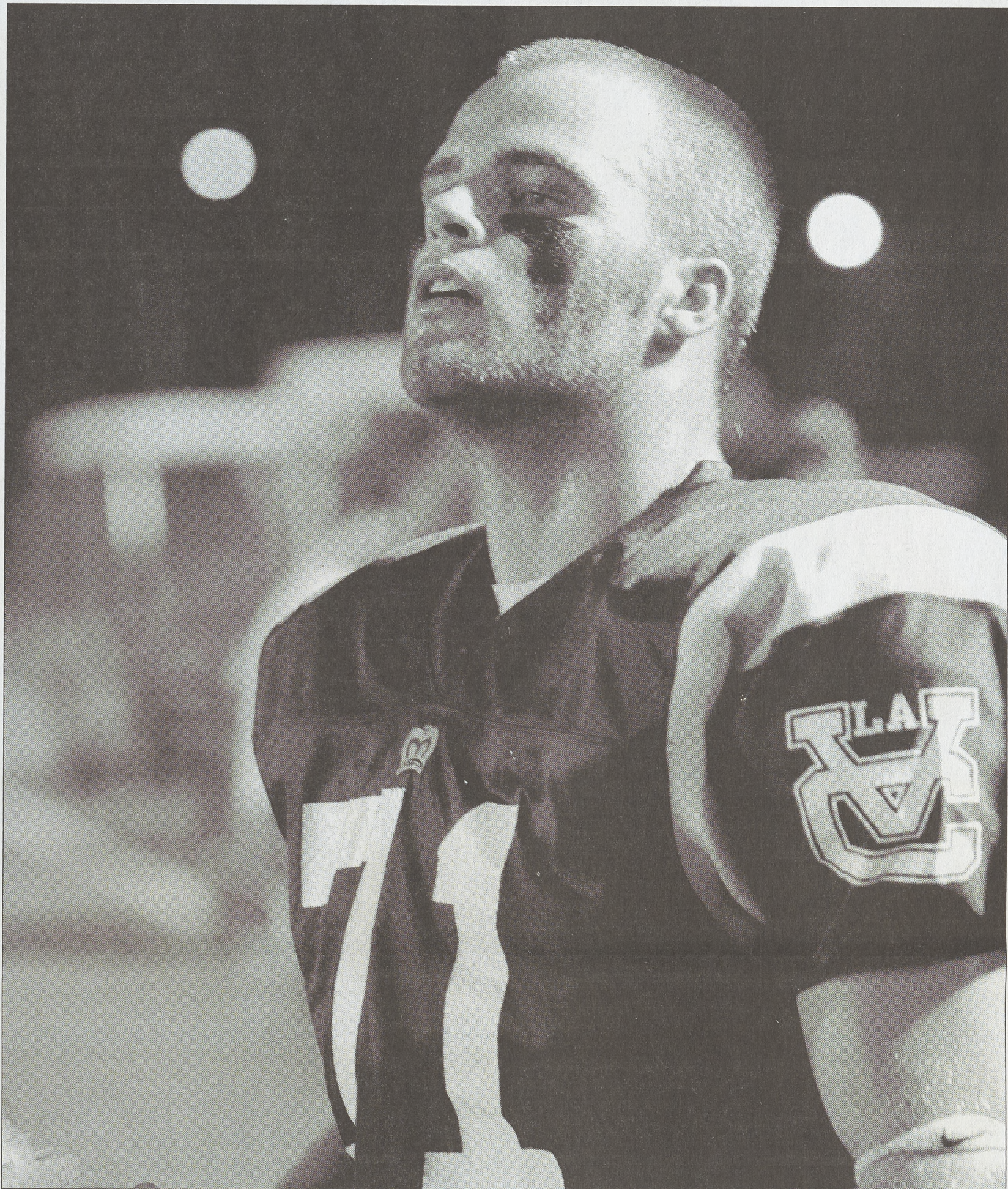
also) a good person," said five-year teammate and Valley quarter back Bret Visciglia.

From his high school coach, Kevin Rooney, to his current coach, Jim Fenwick, Jusko has not only been told to be classy on and off the field, but has listened. You will not likely see him shouting orders or talking cheap, but instead see him leading by example on and off the field.

"I more lead by actions rather than words... I think that's a better way to lead...I believe if people talk it leads to cockiness."

'When we get 80 of those guys, we'll be a very good team, he's a guy that a coach can count on through thick and thin...someone's going to get a really good player.'

- Jim Fenwick
Head Coach



DOING WHAT HE LOVES- Valley football center and longsnapper Erik Jusko looking on as his defensive team-mates take the field during Friday's game

OPINION

Watching With One Eye Closed

Years of season-ending struggles leaves this Dodger fan clinching once again as the season comes to a close.

JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

My first real Dodgers moment haunts me to this day. It was 1996 and the Dodgers had a two game lead over the San Diego Padres heading into the final weekend of the season. I was fortunate to be at the final game of the season to see the epic battle between the Padres and Dodgers for the NL West crown. Unfortunately, witnessing the Padres charge the mound in victory gave me my first taste of defeat as a fan.

Fast forward 13 years later and I'm still cringing at the thought of the Dodgers losing division leads late into the season. This year, the Dodgers had a nine game lead at the All-Star Break only to have it reduced to a 3 game margin with the Rockies still nipping at their heels.

Although the Dodgers won last weekend's series over rivals San Francisco Giants, I can't help but feel somewhat optimistic about the 2009 boys in blue. While the division lead isn't as long as hoped for, the dodgers are right where they are supposed to be. This team doesn't bring

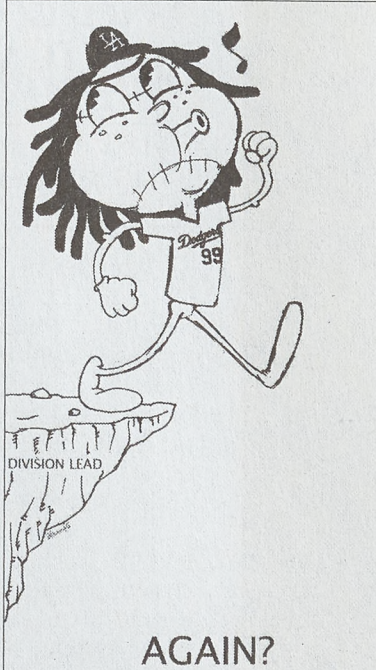
memories of the 2008 squad that didn't get into high gear until Manny Ramirez showed up with the Dodgers youth movement finally coming of age, thankfully we don't have to witness another 2007 collapse that included aging stars light years past their prime wilt in front of our eyes along with any hope of the playoffs.

The success of this year can be credited to manager Joe Torre for keeping the team on even footing regardless

of together that not only has an opportunity to win now but for future seasons. The James Loney, Matt Kemp, Andre Ethier, Russell Martin combination has the potential to be as consistent as the Karros, Piazza, Mondesi, Hollandsworth era of the franchise that brought the team consistent NL West titles and wild card playoff berths. It's energizing as a fan to see the growth of the team keep pace with the win total. Teams that usually peak this late into the season pay off big dividends, i.e. the Tampa Bay Rays, Red Sox, and Colorado Rockies of recent seasons

The consistency of this year's team has shown that the Dodgers are more formidable than last year and are ready to make a serious playoff run. Take into consideration Manny Ramirez's 50 - game suspension for using performance-enhancing drugs. If that happened last year, the team would've been deflated and may not have made the playoffs. This year, they had a better record without Ramirez than with the suspended slugger. That couldn't have been a better thing for the team to experience, allowing the team to reset its leadership role to manager Joe Torre and let the young core lead from example rather than defaulting to Ramirez.

This season ends with a final series against the Padres. I'll be waiting and watching to see the Dodgers charge the mound in celebration...hopefully.



LEONARDO ALANNIS | VALLEY STAR

of wins or losses and general manager Ned Colletti for keeping a young nucleus

SCHEDULES

Men's Water Polo: Home
Sept. 23rd 3pm
Vs. Chaffey

Football: Home
Sept. 26th 7pm
Vs. Santa Monica College

Women's Soccer: Away
Sept. 25th 4pm
Vs. Cal Lutheran
Sept. 29th 4pm
Vs. Missions

Cross Country: Away
Oct. 2nd 2pm
Bakersfield Invitational

Women's Water Polo: Away
Sept. 25th TBA
Mt. Sac Tournament

**Can You Pick
Pick NFL Week 3
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EARLY SEASON ACTION- Freshmen Mayra Luis-Juan battling for the ball.



ANYBODY NEED A LIGHT- An iron worker fires up his welding torch before cutting countless pieces of rebar.



HIGH JUMP - A worker climbs over the safety cable on the edge of the roof and onto a motorized lift.



WELD MASTER-More than 500 man hours a day are spent on the new structure.



NO WALK IN THE PARK- Lush trees in the background provide a contrast to the harsh sun and suana-like conditions on the roof.

STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING ON TRACK

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY
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Work on the Valley College Student Services began in January 2009 and is expected to be finished on time and on budget in April 2010, according to Victor Vartanian, project safety inspector.

The two story, 39,000 square-foot structure will feature a state of the art electrical system, air conditioning, plumbing, and data management system. The building will be interactive with

other campus buildings. Students and faculty will be able to experience live video conferencing with campuses across the nation and around the world.

Approximately 13.5 million man hours will have been put into the project by the time it is finished. More than 2 million pounds of concrete and steel will be kept safe by state of the art seismic braces. In the event of an earthquake, the building is designed secure.

"We are right on schedule and our milestones are being met," said Vartanian.



BOTTOMS UP-Construction workers team up to do metal work on the roof.